



VOLUME 91 · NUMBER 8

COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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*We joyfully
welcome
and nurture
all people
by providing
a vibrant
Christ-centered
community
of faith,
dedicated to
spiritual growth
through
worship, study
and service.*

BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK

The Well and the Mine by Gin Phillips

There is still time to read *The Well and the Mine* by Gin Phillips and sign up for a one-time book discussion group prior to the author’s appearance on May 11.

Pick up a copy of the book in *The Well* and go to <http://www.cccckc.org/book-book-discussion-groups/> to sign up or on Sunday in the parlor or the chapel.

About the Book: “...part mystery, part meditation on poverty, race, and community in

small-town America during the 1930s. A quietly bold debut, full of heart.” —O, The Oprah Magazine.



About the Author: Phillips is the author of five novels and was the winner of the 2009 Barnes & Noble Discover Award for *The Well and the Mine*. Her talk on May 11 is entitled, “What’s the Point of Fiction?” about the ways that stepping into other people’s lives and living out their stories through literature helps us become more empathetic, kinder people. She will also talk about her own family and how it connects with *The Well and the Mine*.

Children’s Music Presents “Lessons Over Lunch”

Sunday, April 23



The Children’s Choir will present “Lessons Over Lunch” on Sun. Apr. 23, at noon in the Social Hall. Students learn valuable lessons about God’s love while enjoying their “daily bread” . . . in this case, covered with peanut butter and jelly! Everyone is invited to this entertaining presentation. You won’t want to miss it!



A Place at the Table

2017 Stewardship Campaign

God sets a place at the table for you and calls us to create a place at the table for others! In response to God's generosity, we at Country Club Christian Church set the table for worship, spiritual growth and service. At this table lives are transformed, relationships are born, forgiveness is received and joy multiplies to change the world. Join us during the stewardship campaign for these special events.

Apr. 30 – University of Kansas Chamber Singers

Musical guests in worship at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

May 7 – Mission Sunday

Mission partnerships honored in worship, and service project sign ups in the Parlor.

May 14 – Coffee and flowers on Mother's Day

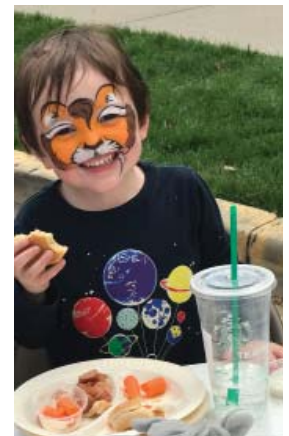
Cappuccinos and fun photo opps with Mom, family or friends.

May 21 – Pledge Sunday

Enjoy brunch between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the parlor.



Easter Egg Hunt on April 9





On Mentors

By Dr. Mike Graves, Guest Preacher



Fred Craddock was my mentor, the pint-sized preacher who literally changed not just the way I preach, but the very landscape of preaching around the world. I note his lack of stature because he often did as well, and understandably so. He almost always needed a box of some sort to stand on behind pulpits. But what he lacked in height, he made up for in reach. In the late '60s, early '70s, preaching was in trouble because like so many conventions of society, authority was being questioned. Think Vietnam protests. Think Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In. How were preachers supposed to respond to times like that?

to respond to times like that?

Fred Craddock's answer was to turn preaching upside down. Rather than imagine people wanting to swallow sermons whole, no questions asked, Fred championed questions on their behalf. He once began a sermon with this line, "I hope you will not feel guilty if your heart was not all aflutter during the reading of the text. It's not very interesting." Needless to say, that's not what seminaries were teaching their young preachers to do. But it was honest, and that sort of honesty changed everything. Plus, it was a small way of preaching, not overpowering, much like Fred himself. (You can find an audio of the sermon on YouTube of course, titled "When the Roll Is Called Down Here.")

Back in 2001 I was blessed to help collect stories from his sermons, published under the title Craddock Stories. Now, I'm working on another book to honor Fred Craddock who passed away two years ago, the working title, What's Right with Preaching Today? A dozen or so scholars are writing essays in his honor, and lots of folks who loved to hear him preach are writing their own remembrances. A few folks from our church have taken up the task. If you'd be interested, let me know.

By the time you read this, I'll be on my way back from presenting at a conference being held this week in Fred's honor. Sewanee School of Theology, between Chattanooga and Nashville, will host pastors from around the country who want to hone their preaching skills, but mostly honor Fred Craddock. I count it one of the great blessings of my life that I learned so much about preaching from Fred, and that I can pass along what he taught me. Mostly, I count it a blessing that he was my friend.

Guest Gathering April 30

If you are a guest at Country Club Christian Church, we are happy to welcome you! Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee in the library on Sun., Apr. 30 at 10:00 a.m. This Guest Gathering is designed to help you learn more about us in a casual setting. A member of our clergy will guide you through our values, traditions, and beliefs and you'll discover ways to connect with our service opportunities, classes, small groups, and of course, our members. We would love to become your church family. RSVP to Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org or call her directly, 816-381-9251.

New members will received on Sun., May 14.

Worship with us!

**Service Times: 9:00, 10:00
and 11:00 a.m.**

Apr. 23

After Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

Apr. 30

Acts 6

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

May 7

Acts 8

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

FaithPub Resumes

FaithPub for men resumes at The Well (7421 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO) on Thursdays, Apr. 27, May 18 and June 8 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Mike Graves, our guest preacher, will lead the sessions and guest speakers will present on the theme “Glimpses of God.”



Speakers are:

- Apr. 27: Robert Fugarino, Pastor at Park Hill Christian Church
- May 18: Fritz Mutti, retired Bishop of the United Methodist Church
- June 8: David Sallee, former President of William Jewell College

Come hear how other men have experienced a glimpse of God in their everyday lives, in extraordinary moments, in books, nature, movies, or personal experiences. Bring a friend and enjoy a beverage, a burger and a fun and meaningful evening. Come one time or come all three. But don't miss this intergenerational evening!

Connections Session 2 Starts April 23

Connections, a gathering for individuals ages mid-20s to mid-40s, meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Led by clergy and small group discussion leaders, the focus is deeper study into the week's worship service scripture references. Session Two will be Apr. 23 and 30 and May 7, 14 and 21.

Aging Conference to Improve Programming

Barbara Weary and Judy Schaefer participated in this week's Age Positive Conference to learn new ideas for creating age-friendly futures for all our neighbors. Presenters shared ways to both engage the gifts and creativity of the elderly and help us all adjust to the many changes that aging brings.



Barbara Weary and Judy Schaefer

Undergirding all the sessions was a commitment to advocate for the dignity of those who could no longer speak for themselves and to be intentional about including seniors from all economic and ethnic groups. The conference was sponsored by the Mid-America Regional

Virginia Reed Food Drive

Our next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Apr. 23. Our emphasis will be canned tuna and canned chicken. There are three ways to help feed our hungry neighbors:

- Bring a can to our donation points in the parlor and chapel any Sunday.
- Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org). On Apr. 23, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation.
- Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope “food drive.” You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship.



For other ways to help us end hunger, contact Joe Walker at joew@cccckc.org.

Your gifts support the five area food pantries that our church supports: Community Christian Church, La Gloria de Dios Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services and Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

2018 Mission Trip to Mungeli, India

In early 2018, two teams from Country Club Christian Church will head to Mungeli, India to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli and the Rambo Memorial English Medium School.



The first will go from Jan. 6-20, and the second from Jan. 21-Feb. 3. Each team will spend about 11 days at the Mungeli Christian Hospital complex. The last two or three days of each team's time in India will include sightseeing, such as a tour of Delhi and the Taj Mahal.

There will be an informational meeting on Sun., June 11 in Room 201 after the 11:00 a.m. service for anyone interested. No special qualifications are needed to participate in the trip. Reservation forms and deposit checks (\$250) will be accepted beginning at the meeting on June 11. Spaces are limited and spots will be assigned in the order of the receipt of deposit checks.



With Gratitude

By Anne Haraughty, Ministries Coordinator



I hope you were able to participate in many or all of the special services and events surrounding Easter Sunday.

It takes a tremendous number of volunteers to make all the events of the church happen, and they are all appreciated!

Today, I would like to express my gratitude to the team who volunteered to decorate, cook, serve and clean-up for Easter Sunday brunch.

Hundreds of people enjoyed a bite to eat or a full breakfast thanks to this crew. Please join me in thanking the “Easter Brunch bunch”:

Greg Lear	Phil Klever
Marie Hunter	Bill Watson
Carol Crouch	Adam Watson
Dave Ehman	Bob Waldo
Jay Wooldridge	George Gordon
David Hunter	Chuck Dreas
Lance Jessee	Barry Wooldridge
John Trewolla	David Showalter

Similarly, there is a fantastic committee working diligently to prepare for Book by Book (an all-church read and author appearance). This committee is led by Melanie Thompson and Randy Irey. Melanie and Randy are supported by these book-loving committee members:

Kathie Allison	Pat Martin
Marilyn Dreas	Tammy Meinhardt
Ryan Holmes	Janet Roberts
Marie Hunter	Vicki Tucker
Mary Lehoczky	

Please share your appreciation with all the volunteers of Country Club Christian Church as they are crucial in the life of the church!

Collection Connection: Flashlights and Batteries

In May, we are collecting flashlights and batteries for Micah Ministry. Many of our Micah guests have had their utilities turned off or are homeless. These folk depend on candles, which can be dangerous, and flashlights to help them light their darkness. If you'd like to help our brothers and sisters at Micah, please bring batteries and/or flashlights with batteries for our May Collection Connection.

Amani Choir

Our congregation, in partnership with Della Lamb Community Services, is forming a choir of refugees and church members called Amani, the Swahili word for peace. The choir will sing in the community as well as at our church. Amanda Sipes, a masters level student at KU, will lead the choir. Please email Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org if you wish to join. Space is limited. Meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Della Lamb. Meet in our chapel parking lot to carpool, leaving at 6:40 p.m.

Faith and Grief Luncheon

Lisa Cooper, author of *You Are My Voice* will be the speaker at the Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry on Tues., May 2, at Village Presbyterian Church (6641 Mission



Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208). The meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome – those of all faiths as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. RSVP: 469-251-9612 or www.faithandgrief.org. The lunch is free, provided by the sponsoring churches.

Student Ministries

Pastors' Class Reunion

Apr. 30 – 9:45-11:00 a.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205).

Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday during the academic year. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Youth Center.

High School Youth Group

All 9th-12th graders are invited to participate in weekly fellowship gatherings over food with different topics each week. Meetings are all on Thursdays now. Depending on your schedule and location, join fellow students for fellowship and food. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Spin Pizza (6541 W. 119th St, Overland Park, KS), and 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Panera in Brookside (6301 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, MO).

Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Rm. 202

9:55-10:55 a.m.: High School Sunday School, Youth Center

Youth Music Group

Youth Music Group for grades 6-12 meets on Sundays from 12:00-12:45 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). This is a creative and collaborative group. Vocalists and instrumentalists welcome. Come join us!

High School Mission Trip

June 17-23. High school students (9th-12th grade) will travel to Fort Worth, TX and Texas Christian University this summer.

Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8)

June 12-13, 2017. Middle School students will engage in mission in Northeast Kansas City in cooperation with Country Club Christian Church's PartNERship. This will be an opportunity to learn about the needs of our own city and build memories and lasting relationships with other students.

Pastors' Class Baptisms on April 9



Members of the 2017 Pastors' Class who were baptized on Apr. 9 are front (from left), Jack Kenner, Alex Carreno, Liam Petrie, Jack Redding and Sophie Emerson. Ashton Meuret will be baptized on Apr. 30. Clergy on back row are (left to right), Chuck Pickrel, Carla Aday, Monica Lewis and Joe Walker.

Infant Dedication



E.J. Becker IV, with parents Stephanie and E.J. Becker III, was dedicated on Apr. 9.



Working Yourself Out of a Job

By Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families



Next week I'll be at Princeton Seminary for the Princeton Forum. I've been invited there to be a coach for some of the pastors in a certificate program of their Institute for Youth Ministry. Just today I spent some time on the phone with one of those pastors.

Anyone who's ever mentored or coached someone knows that the relationship is always reciprocal. Often the mentor gets more out of the deal than the person on the other end—just ask any of our Faith

Mentors who have ever participated in our Pastors' Class. (SHAMELESS PLUG ALERT: Don't forget the Pastors' Class Reunion Breakfast coming up Apr. 30 from 9:45-10:55 a.m. in the Youth Center!) Our faith itself calls us to always be both a student and a mentor. Even Jesus continued to learn from the people he was teaching all through his ministry.

I'll spend the next year in monthly check-ins with two of the pastors who I'm mentoring, walking with them as they navigate the final piece of their certificate program—a large scale project in their ministry. When I was on the phone with one of my mentees, she said to me, "I kind of feel like if this project works I will have worked myself out of a job."

If you've been around me much you know that this is a phrase I say all the time. One of my most influential mentors in ministry told me that that should always be our goal as pastors—to work ourselves out of a job. Perhaps that doesn't make the most fiscal sense when we look at it on the surface but it sure does make sense if you're entrepreneurial. And in a constant and rapidly changing culture, the church has to be just that. We must constantly try new ideas. Always willing to fail. And resolved enough in our faith to know that God will continue to be with us as we look for the place God leads us.

If we are being the church that Jesus modeled, we know that we create something (like Jesus), we give it legs by equipping the people to go create more "somethings" (like the disciples), and even when we become far removed from the minutiae of it all, we trust that when we have done the work to make it sustainable, the Holy Spirit will take it from there.

I wonder what that looks like for you... working yourself out of a job. What does it look like for our church? If, like my mentee, we each spent a year on a project or an idea that was directly related to our service in the church. And we gave it legs. And we made it sustainable. And we gave all we had to it. And we trusted the Holy Spirit to take it from there as it becomes something bigger than we ever imagined. Wow. May we all have the audacity to try!

Children and Families

Children's Music Presents "Lessons Over Lunch"

Sunday, April 23

The Children's Choir will present "Lessons Over Lunch" on Sun. Apr. 23, at noon in the Social Hall.



Students learn valuable lessons about God's love while enjoying their "daily bread" . . . in this case, covered with peanut butter and jelly!

Rehearsal – 11:00-a.m. this Saturday, Social Hall.

3rd-5th Grade Events

May 5 – First Friday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

Family Worship Night

Sun., May 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family.

Dinner provided!

Vacation Bible School

Register now for Vacation Bible School, June 19-22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Family Fun Day Sun., June 25. For children ages 2 through 5th grade. Sign up in the parlor or online at <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc>.

Children's Choir

Rehearsals Sundays, 11:00-11:30 a.m., Rm. 213.

MOPS Group

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The next meeting is May 10. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

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Our Church Family

Memorials

Memorial gifts are placed into the Church's Endowment Funds, which are used to support the church now and into the future. The Endowment Trustees disperse the funds according to the Declaration of Trust approved by the official Congregational Board.

Mary Louise Knutson, for the Music Department

Margaret Brinkman
Randy & Cindy Irey
Greg & Nancy Lear
Lori McKinley

Carlene Neihart

Dr. L. D. & Eleanor Whitsett

Our apologies to Ada Lee Gibbs and the Gibbs family for excluding their Easter lily acknowledgment in the Easter bulletins on Apr. 16.

IN MEMORY OF:

ERMA AND FRANCIS BEATTY

By Ada Lee Gibbs and the Gibbs Family

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Sara and Alex Goering Associate Directors of Music for Children and Students
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Anne Haraughty Ministries Coordinator
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communications
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
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The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

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email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org